

**REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action of October 10, 2008. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in this application. The specification is amended by the insertion of a new paragraph corresponding to original claim 15. Claims 1-20, 23, and 25-28 are cancelled, without prejudice. Claim 21 is rewritten in independent form. Claim 22 is rewritten in independent form. Claim 24 is rewritten in independent form. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment. Claims 21, 22, 24, and 29 are now pending in this application.

**Objection to specification**

Near the top of page 2 of the Office Action, objection was raised to the specification. The Examiner kindly indicated that insertion of the formula of claim 15 into the specification would overcome the objection. That insertion is made by the foregoing amendment of the specification.

**Formal rejections**

Near the bottom of page 2 of the Office Action, claims 2, 6, 21, and 28 were rejected as failing to define the invention properly. Claims 2, 6, and 28 are cancelled. Claim 21 was said to be improperly dependent from claim 1. Claim 21 has been rewritten in independent form. Applicants note further that the specification teaches (page 10, lines 16-19) that "for the Sr-Nb combined oxide  $\text{Sr}_2\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_7$  and  $\text{Sr}_4\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_9$  described above, still lower thermal conductivity can be achieved by replacing the Nb site with Ti or Zr to bring to a solid solution." It is respectfully

submitted, therefore, that the foregoing amendments of the claims overcome the formal rejections stated in the outstanding Office Action.

Prior art rejections

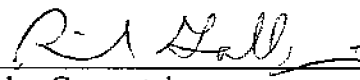
On pages 3-6 of the Office Action, claims 1-20, 23, and 25-28 are rejected as being anticipated by various references. All of those claims have been cancelled, thereby obviating the prior art rejections of record.

Conclusion

The present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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